

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

August 23, 2010

**New Trier Township High School
7 Happ Road, Room C234
Northfield, IL 60093**

A **Regular Meeting** of the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203, 7 Happ Road, Northfield, IL. Room C234, Monday, August 23, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Ms. Wendy Serrino, President
Mr. John Myefski, Vice President
Mr. Alan R. Dolinko
Ms. Carol F. Ducommun
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris
Mr. Robert Merrick
Mr. James B. Koch

Administrator Present

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent
Mr. Donald Goers, Associate Superintendent
Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal -
Winnetka Campus
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal -
Northfield Campus
Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent
for Student Services
Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum & Instruction

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education;
Mr. Chris Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Randy Oberembt, Athletic Director; Mr. Matt Ottaviano,
Assistant Principal for Administrative Services; Dr. Debbie Stacey, Director of Academic Services;
Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Mr.
Richard Corrus, Co-President NTESPA; Mr. Brian Crowley, Franczek Radelet; Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant
Principal for Student Services; Ms. Teri Rodgers, Social Studies Department; Ms. Gail Gamrath, Junior Girls Advisor
Chair; Mr. Paul Easton, English Department; Mr. Peter Tragos, Social Studies Department; Ms. Athena Arvanitis,
Director of Student Life; Ms. Linda Knier, Modern & Classical Language Department Chair; Ms. Linda Oddo, Speech
& Theatre Department Chair; Ms. Robyn Ward, Science Department Coordinator; Mr. Dean Pinos, Social Studies
Coordinator; Mr. Jay Rosenberg, English Department; Mr. Steve Gaeth, Art Department Coordinator; Dr. Laura
Murray, ECRA Group; Dr. John Gatta, ECRA Group; Mr. Litt Clark; Ms. Rose Marchuck, Girls' Rowing Coach; Ms.
Jodie Johnson; Mr. Chuck Hirsch; Mr. Wes Bauman; Mr. Daniel Fox; Mr. Herb Sorock; Mr. James Pinkerton; Ms.
Vanessa Rachmaninoff; Ms. Jude Offerle; Ms. Onnie Scheyer; Ms. Marcia Oley; Mr. Tim Sherman; Ms. Katie Okon,
and members of the Community.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Wendy Serrino called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:31 p.m. Ms. Serrino called the roll and all Board members were present at 7:32 p.m.

Ms. Serrino began the meeting with the Introduction of New Teachers, Agenda Item III.A.

I. Minutes

Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Special and Regular Meetings of July 19, 2010 (open sessions). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Koch, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski,
Ms. Serrino

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

II. Communications

Ms. Serrino reviewed communications that the Board has received from the community. Several emails regarding the Budget were received from Vanessa Rachmaninoff, Charlotte Aines, Jim Pinkerton and Jude Offerle. These questions will be addressed in the Public Hearing for the Budget part of the meeting. Ms. Serrino invited Community members wishing to speak to come forward. Mr. Daniel Fox, Mr. Wes Bauman, Mr. Paul Easton, Ms. Gail Gamrath, Ms. Teri Rodgers and Mr. Peter Tragos addressed the Board on community trust and the Day Care program. Ms. Serrino thanked everyone for sharing their thoughts and comments. The remaining public communication requests will be heard during the Public Hearing on the Budget.

Dr. Yonke responded to earlier references of violations of the Open Meetings Act with clarification of the facts regarding the allegations made to the Attorney General. Specific Closed Session minutes and tapes were requested for the investigation. The motions in open session to move to closed session were recorded in the Closed Session minutes for the appropriate reasons for closed session meetings. These will now be recorded in the open session minutes. The closed session minutes are opened for public review every six months, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Dr. Yonke noted that three closed meetings tapes and minutes were requested by the Attorney General and that the recording device was replaced upon knowledge of the impaired tape recorder. The new recorder was in place before the allegations were made and is functioning properly.

III. Special Orders of Business

A. Introduction of New Teachers

Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources welcomed all the new faculty members for the 2010-11 School year and reviewed the comprehensive hiring process. Department chairs and coordinators introduced fourteen new teachers in nine departments. The new faculty members are Susan Kwon, Robert Bollweg, Kristin Okrzesik, Matthew Ravenscraft, Yuko Kato, Amy Ludolph, David Rafferty-Flatter, Lori Worth, Gina Evans, Kari Viano, Maryann Kirschbaum, Sarah Axon, P.J. Samorian, and Stacy Kolack.

B. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal of the Northfield campus, reported on the startup activities of the new school year. Jan Borja, the Northfield Principal, is back at school after an extended absence. Freshman sports practices began August 11 and Senior Helper training took place in recent weeks. The Northfield Leadership Team met for planning purposes a week ago, and the entire teaching staff returned today.

Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka campus noted the various summer preparations for the start of school, which included some renovations, moved offices, the creation of two classrooms, some outside masonry repairs as well as the usual painting, cleaning and waxing floors for the beginning of the school year. Dr. Dohrer also congratulated and thanked Matt Ottaviano, Karen Pederson, Maureen Magee and the MIS staff for the thousands of student schedules they worked tirelessly to prepare for the first day of school. Sophomores have been touring the Winnetka campus and everyone is ready to welcome the students on Wednesday.

Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, also talked about the preparations for the new year, citing the number of meetings of faculty leadership, department chairs and others. Two themes that will be addressed throughout the coming year will be inquiry and community. He noted that all staff members are eager and ready to go.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, echoed that it was great to be back for the start of a new year. Mr. Sally reported that the Book Store rental program appears to be a success this year. Over 30% of families took advantage of the program for at least part of their textbook purchase.

C. Public Hearing: 2010-11 Budget

Mr. Goers reviewed the activity of the July 19, 2010 meeting regarding the approval of the Tentative Budget for 2010-2011 and the placing of said budget on public display for the required number of days. Mr. Goers also noted that there has been a Finance Committee meeting since the July Board meeting, at which a number of key areas were examined with regard to the Budget. These areas included revenues, both state and student fees as well as the expenditures. Long Range Financial projections were re-examined with adjustments made to show actual revenues and expenditures. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board open the Public Hearing on the 2010-11 Budget for District 203. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Koch, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Dolinko,
Ms. Serrino

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Yonke began her introduction of a Power Point presentation of the Final Budget with a view of the solid financial planning by the District as evidenced by only 2 tax rate referenda in 35 years. In 2003, the District committed to no future tax rate referendum for five years and to keep 4.5 months of budget in reserves at all times. It is now eight years past that 2003 commitment and current projections show that the budget will not fall below that 4.5 month reserve until 2018, fifteen years past the 2003 commitment. The District's Annual Budget Guidelines require a financial plan to address deficits or reserves dropping below the 4.5 month mark. Dr. Yonke noted the excellent bond rating for the District as well as multiple awards and certificates of achievement for preparation of state and local government reports. Planning is essential to anticipate needs and to decide on the timing of various actions when considering the changing variables. Dr. Yonke reviewed the elements of Operating and Non-operating funds, long term debt schedules and pension systems. There were minimal modifications made to the Tentative Budget since the July meeting. Mr. Goers reviewed the FY 2010- Final Budget, noting the various fund revenues and expenses. The Non-Operating funds show approximately the expenditure of the life health safety bond proceeds, with the bonds having been sold in April 2010, the previous fiscal year. These bond proceeds are shown as revenue in FY 2010 and then as expenditures in FY 2011. Dr. Yonke noted the important point that the operating budget is balanced and is not in a deficit position. Mr. Goers reviewed the sources of revenues, the Operating Budget by Fund, Expenses by Type and the Educational Fund Expense by Program. He also compared revenues and expenses to the previous year as well as looking at the FY2011 Budget Summary of Cash Transactions and the summary of Historical and Projected Revenues and Expenditures. Mr. Goers invited questions and comments by the Board and responded to them.

Ms. Serrino invited public comment on the Budget. Mr. Herb Sorock, Ms. Jude Offerle and Ms. Onnie Scheyer shared their thoughts and questions, which included queries on the posted Tentative Budget and the approved Budget, a forecast of capital expenditures, and support of the 2010-11 Budget. Mr. Brian Crowley, counsel for District 203, responded to earlier comments stating that all requirements to adopt the 2010-11 Budget have been met and noted that the adopted Budget does not have to replicate the posted Tentative Budget.

Mr. Dolinko stated the task before the Board was to approve on an annual basis, a balanced operating funds budget and that this (2010-11 Final Budget) is balanced. The deficit seen here in the Non-Operating Funds will appear from time to time when bond sale revenues accrue in one year and are expended in the next. Mr. Harris noted the importance of clearly communicating these budget details for better understanding by the community. Ms. Ducommun responded how rewarding it was to see that the possible need for a tax rate referendum is pushed to a possible 15 years out from the last one in 2003. She also noted that the cost cutting measures were embraced by all departments to produce this budget. Mr. Myefski noted the time and effort involved with this budget and he supports it. Mr. Merrick expressed his thanks and gratitude to the departments and administration for the amount of cost cutting measures they have taken and adopted. Mr. Koch agreed with colleagues and is pleased to see the possibility of fifteen years without a tax rate referendum. He also commended Mr. Goers for the excellent fiscal stewardship he has provided to the District. Mr. Dolinko followed up with a note as to how fortunate the District has been to achieve the balanced budget without cutting staff. Ms. Serrino expressed her gratitude to the Administration for accepting a zero percent increase in salaries for this year.

Mr. Dolinko moved that the Public Hearing on the 2010-11 Budget be closed. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Koch, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris,
Ms. Serrino

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Final 2010-11 Budget

Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the Resolution Setting the Fiscal Year and Adopting the 2010-11 Budget, the Certificate of Revenue for the 2010-11 Budget (which incorporates the student fees schedule), and the School District Budget Form. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Koch,
Ms. Serrino

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Presentation of Focus Group Feedback – ECRA

Ms. Serrino and Dr. Yonke introduced Drs. John Gatta and Laura Murray from the ECRA Group who presented an updated status report on the Community Survey Research Project that ECRA was contracted to produce for the District. Dr. Gatta gave an overview of the three phases of the process for this research project which included a phase one – exploratory research; phase two – survey implementation; and phase three – data analysis and reporting. Dr. Gatta was specific in stating that each phase is part of the process and needs to be viewed in that way. Currently, the beginning of phase one is completed with the completion of six focus group meetings discussing issues that should be addressed in a community wide survey. The focus groups included all who indicated interest in serving in this way, representing parents, community members, students, faculty and administrators. Dr. Gatta noted that well over 100 individuals were contacted through the focus groups or personal interviews. Dr. Murray reported on the various issues for further exploration in the survey which emerged from the groups and interviews. These issues included the community's perceptions of the philosophy and values related to education; curriculum and instruction, including obstacles that may be hindering the delivery of a high quality curriculum and instructional program; technology; student opportunities; facilities; and communications. Dr. Murray noted the next steps will be for ECRA to present the survey instrument to the administration and Board of Education for approval after which they will implement the survey to the community. ECRA will then analyze the results of the data and present a final report to the Board and the community. Both Dr. Gatta and Dr. Murray responded to Board members' comments and questions.

F. Turf – Booster Donation

Dr. Yonke introduced Athletic Director Randy Oberembt; Booster Club President, Sara Cohen; Assistant Athletic Director, Debbie Ofcky; and Girls' Soccer Coach Jim Burnside to present information and recommendations regarding installation of a turf field in the Northfield stadium. Ms. Cohen reported for the Booster Club that the Club voted to support the recommendation for a synthetic surface with a fundraising goal of \$500,000 toward a new field. The assumptions with this goal include that the stadium is the best location for such a field, that the Board of Education would approve the plan, that the Board of Ed would amend the Board Policy on Naming to enhance fundraising opportunities, that the Booster Club

would be recognized for its part in the project at the stadium and that the Athletic Director will continue to actively support the Booster Club's efforts to support other athletic teams of the athletic department. Mr. Randy Oberembt provided background information on the selection of the Northfield stadium as the site for a synthetic surface. The second report focuses on the analysis of the reasons to use a synthetic surface and how its use would change the athletic and curricular programs at New Trier. Both Dr. Yonke and Mr. Oberembt noted the impact of weather on a natural field and the inaccessibility of such a field for a variety of activities for both athletic teams and kinetic wellness classes. Board discussion followed over the financial issues and Northfield space issues as well as the time needed to realistically implement such plans. Mr. Oberembt and Mr. Neiweem responded to Board questions regarding the choice of field surfaces and the vendors researched. Dr. Yonke suggested a meeting with the Booster Club to talk about timing. Ms. Cohen noted that such would have to be approved by the Booster Club Board and noted that if more time was needed for raising the funds the campaign would continue until completion.

Agenda Item VI.D. was presented at this time.

IV. Routine/Recurrent Items (consent agenda)

- Bill List for the Period, July 1-31, 2010

Mr. Goers reviewed the Bill List for the month of July, the first list of the new fiscal year. Mr. Goers noted various payments and responded to Board members' questions. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Koch seconded the motion to approve the Bill List for the period of July 1-31, 2010 as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Koch, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Dolinko,
Ms. Serrino

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Board Member Reports

Mr. Dolinko noted finances were covered earlier in the meeting and that the policy issues will be discussed later in the meeting. Ms. Serrino reported for the Community Engagement Committee which met to discuss community involvement on three specific committees: building and green space use; comparison of New Trier facilities to peer schools; and assessment of the 1-3 enrollment model. Ms. Serrino noted approximately eighteen individuals who indicated interest were invited to participate on these committees. Dr. Yonke reported that about two-thirds have responded, many enthusiastically to serve. Staff volunteers will be sought as well. Ms. Ducommun noted that the Steering Committee had not met, but was waiting for feedback from these other committees.

VI. Administrative Items

A. Personnel Report

Dr. Yonke presented the Personnel Report, which reflected several support staff appointments and resignations as well as one new faculty member and a change of status. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Koch seconded the motion that the Board approve the Personnel Report as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Harris, Mr. Koch, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun,
Ms. Serrino

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Board Policy Revisions: Second Reading & Approval

- Policies 2-150;2-190;2-200;2-220;2-250

Dr. Yonke reviewed the status of the Board Policies that were revised and presented for a first reading at last month's meeting. The policies being reviewed were those for Board of Education Committees; Mailing Lists for Receiving Board Material; Types of Board of Education Meetings; Board of Education Meeting Procedure; and Access to District's Public Records. No further changes were proposed at this second reading for these policies. Mr. Harris moved and Mr. Koch seconded the motion that the Board approve the revisions for Board Policies 2-150; 2-190; 2-200; 2-220; 2-250 as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Koch, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris,
Ms. Serrino

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Board Policy Revisions: First Reading

- Policies 2-230; 8-80

Dr. Yonke began the discussion on Policy 2-230, Public Participation at Board Meetings, by reporting that many of the changes were taken from the IASB model policy and the temporary Participation Guidelines recently used on an interim basis. Mr. Dolinko noted a small change to the acknowledgement of any correspondence received by the Board since the last regular Board meeting. Mr. Koch sought clarification of those speaking to the Board if they spoke individually or on behalf of a larger group or entity. Discussion followed and decided that the fourth guideline should stand and that the chair has the authority to request such clarification if needed. Dr. Yonke reviewed that the only change for this policy is the addition of the word “regular” to the acknowledgement of correspondence received by the Board since the last Board meeting.

Dr. Yonke reviewed the suggested changes to Policy 8-80, School-Community Relations Gifts, Naming, Advertising, and Tribute Policies. She noted there was some confusion regarding when the use of a recognition plaque could or could not be used. The changes state there will be no permanent recognition of individual donors; however, in another section, it is written that recognition ceremonies or plaques to honor the donor group can be approved by the Board. Mr. Harris requested consideration of a broad category of plaque that might recognize donors within the group. Mr. Dolinko responded that the new changes, while minimal since the policy was recently revised in 2009, open the doors to individual recognition through the efforts of organizations associated with the District such as the Booster Club or the Fine Arts Association. Much Board discussion followed on the donation policy and other issues related to recognition of donors. Discussion ended with a Board consensus to request the Policy Committee to make further revisions and bring Policy 8-80 back for another first reading.

D. Skokie Park District Intergovernmental Agreement

Mr. John Neiweem introduced Mr. Litt Clark of the rowing parents association; Ms. Rose Marchuck, girls’ rowing coach; and Ms. Jodie Johnson. He then related the history and details of the recommendation to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Skokie Park District regarding the Dammrich Rowing Center on the North Shore Channel between Main and Oakton Streets in Skokie, Illinois. The existing dock at the Dammrich Center is more than 10 years old and is not designed to accommodate rowing teams. The rowing parents association launched a capital campaign along with a contribution from the Booster Club to cover the costs of installation of a new dock. Mr. Neiweem noted that the project has received approval from Skokie and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, which owns the property. Our legal counsel has reviewed the agreement. Following installation of the dock, the Skokie Park District will assume ownership of the dock and all responsibility for its maintenance and future replacement. Mr. Neiweem also noted the second recommendation is for approval of the contract to be awarded to Floating Docks MFG Company for the demolition of the existing dock and installation of the new dock. Board comments and questions followed and were responded to by Mr. Neiweem.

Ms. Serrino asked for a motion. Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board approve the Inter-Governmental Agreement with the Skokie Park District and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District for the purpose of replacing the existing dock at the Dammrich Rowing Center. Upon roll call being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Myefski, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Koch, Mr. Merrick, Ms. Serrino

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Koch also made the motion and Mr. Merrick seconded that the Board approve a contract with Floating Docks MFG Company for \$50,920.00 for the demolition and removal of the existing dock and installation of a new dock at the Dammrich Rowing Center. Upon roll call being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Koch, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Ms. Serrino

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Board Meeting Calendar Revision

Dr. Yonke indicated that the Board Calendar of meeting dates that was approved in the spring did not recognize that the Open Session actually starts before 7:30 p.m. whenever a Closed Session is needed. The meeting agendas noted the Closed Session time; in addition, the motion for closed session occurs in open session. The new Calendar more clearly shows that the Board Business Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., and that when a closed session is required, the meeting will be called to order in open session at 6:30, prior to a vote to go into closed session. There were no changes made to the dates of the meetings. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the revision to the Board of Education Regular Meeting Date Calendar 2010-2011 as presented. Upon roll call being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Koch,
Ms. Serrino

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Business Reports

- Financial Reports for July 2010

Mr. Goers reviewed the Financial Reports for July 2010 noting that on the Financial Statement the beginning balance is the starting balance of \$78.7 million. There are still some adjusting journal entries to be made. Capital Projects is overstated as it includes some Operations & Maintenance funds. These adjustments are typically made in the thirteenth month and corrections will show next month. Mr. Goers noted that the total figures are accurate.

VIII. Board of Education

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke noted that today was the first day back with all staff and faculty for the first Institute Day. Wednesday, August 25 is the first day for students. Friday will be the first football game of the season. Dr. Yonke noted that a Special Meeting may be required sometime in September for the ECRA Group to present the first draft of the Community Survey. September 7 may be a tentative date pending availability or more likely late in September after the regular meeting. The New Trier Education Foundation annual fund raising Golf Outing is on Monday, September 13.

- Board Members' Requests for Staff Research and Suggested Future Agenda Items

There were no requests for staff research or suggested future agenda items. Mr. Goers also reported that there were no FOIA requests since the last regular meeting of the Board of Education and the FOIA requests are posted on the school website.

IX. Communication – Citizens' Comments

Ms. Serrino noted that there were no requests for Citizens' Comments and requested a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Merrick moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Serrino adjourned the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Wendy M. Serrino, President